

December 15, 2005

The Honorable Sunne Wright-McPeak
Secretary of the California Business
Transportation & Housing Agency
980 Ninth St. #2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Alan Lloyd
Secretary of the California Environmental
Protection Agency
1001 I St.
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Secretary Wright-McPeak and Secretary Lloyd:

We are writing to respectfully request that State Route 99 (SR 99) be given the highest priority for funding and action in the Goods Movement Action Plan being developed under your direction.

The initial goal of the Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) is to add 30,000 net new jobs in Fresno and Madera counties over the five year period ending on December 31, 2008. The larger goal of the RJI is to help bring about a fundamental transformation of the path to economic development of the San Joaquin Valley. Based on an industry cluster approach, the RJI aims to build a more diversified Valley economy, competing on value rather than low cost. This restructuring of the Valley's economy will require that we redress decades of neglect of the Valley's physical infrastructure.

Upgrade of SR 99 to an Interstate has been a top priority of the RJI since its inception. A necessary step in that direction is the implementation of the Caltrans Master Plan for SR 99, developed and recently released by Caltrans under direction from Secretary McPeak. That plan needs to be implemented in the shortest possible time to relieve congestion, reduce emissions, and anticipate the growth in goods movement on SR 99.

As necessary as they are, investments in CA ports without commensurate investment in SR 99, would only make the San Joaquin Valley the bottleneck for goods movement in California. As you know, SR 99 carries more goods movement than any other major north-south corridor in the country. It is not only the lifeline of the San Joaquin Valley but also the commerce corridor for the State of California and vital to the efficient movement of agricultural goods to the rest of the nation. The corridor already experiences three times the state average in truck traffic and, with an expected growth rate of 60% over the next twenty years, it is in urgent need of expansion.

The Regional Jobs Initiative would like to acknowledge the leadership you are providing to the long overdue improvement of our State's infrastructure, and would like to thank you both in advance for your consideration of this request to include SR 99 as a priority project in the Goods Movement Action Plan.

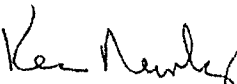
Sincerely,



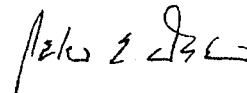
Alan Autry, Mayor, City of Fresno



Lynne Ashbeck, City Council, City of Clovis



Ken Newby, Co-Chair
Regional Jobs Initiative



Peter E. Weber, Co-Chair
Regional Jobs Initiative